



CAWMC was founded January 1st, 1975

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President's Message

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2019-2021

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Dave Gillespie
Michael Turrini
Kevin Day-Thorburn
Robert (Bob) Fritsch

Hello everybody:

It is with great sadness that I learned that one of our last Charter Members, Donald Smith, (C-27), died on September 16. Don lived in South Porcupine ON for 55 years prior to moving to Perth ON a couple of years ago. I used to attend our local coin club meetings with him and regularly discussed woods and other exnumia originating from our area.

Along from the first snow, which appeared early in Northern Ontario, the second wave of Covid-19 is here. In Western and Central Canada, everyday life will be affected, again. So, I found myself putting in my wooden money collection this past week. I found enjoyment reminiscing about where and how I obtained some of those woods, from the ones just tossed at me, to the ones given by collectors who looked like, and sometimes said, that I was pretty lucky to get one of theirs! Which ever way I obtained them, I like them all! Do you have a story regarding one of your woods? Please share (and get a "thank you wood" in return). There could be plenty of time ahead to write about your favorite wood, for the benefit of your fellow club members!

In this issue, aside from our regular chronicle Chips of the woodpile, relating our club's history, you will find a short article about two Fairbanks woods, another one describing surprises found in the forest, a first instalment from Vic Agha describing the variety of woods used in the production of wooden money and flats throughout the world.

Take a look at the reverse of our "Thank you for your contribution" wood of the eponym award program, on page 9 and please renew your membership prior to December 31 (form on page 10).

**Stay safe, take care of yourself
and of your family.**

France



Groucho Marx Wood

Featured Wood of the Month of November 2020

Groucho Marx Wood

Neil Probert has been a fan of the Marx Brothers since 1974, when Groucho was still alive, and the Marx Brothers' movies were having a resurgence on university campuses throughout North America. He has collected Marx Brothers memorabilia over the years and has accumulated a large number of items. Neil is a Chartered Professional Accountant and has run a public accounting practice since 1983. His office in Calgary, Alberta is decorated with much of his Marx Brothers collection.



The board room in Neil's office, decorated with Marx Brothers' memorabilia.

Neil has also been a numismatist since the 1960's. He was a close friend of Garry Braunwarth and joined CAWMC in the 1970's, shortly after it was formed.

To combine two of his collecting interests, Neil had a wood prepared for the 2019 RCNA Convention. The wood features a picture of Groucho Marx on one side (in black) and a maple leaf on the other, with the wording: "Neil Probert" "Numismatist" and "Calgary, Alberta" (in red).

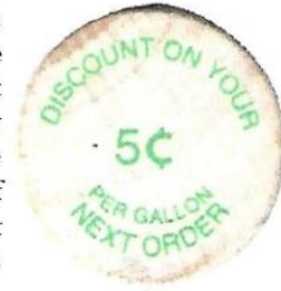
Two hundred on the woods were made by Canada Wide Woods in June 2019.



Two Fairbanks Woods

by David (Rusty) Phillips

Two “Generational” Fairbanks woods have come my way. The first is the **Fairbanks Fuel Distributors Inc.** (907-452-4477) wood, and it is thought to have been created and circulated in the early to mid-1980s. The distribution of the wood, by the driver of the delivery truck, was made at the time of delivery, when the life of the driver was made a little easier by the customer! A nice “rewards” program for the customer, for “going the extra mile”! The wood is the usual 1½” / 38mm in size, and the colour of the lettering and logo, both sides is green. It is not known the number made nor circulated. It is believed that only one variety (shown *right*) was ever made.



Fairbanks Fuel Distributors Inc. was acquired in 2015 by **Alaska Fuel Distributors Inc.** (which has operated in Alaska since 2002). As a result of this acquisition, Fairbanks Fuel Distributors was folded into company under the AFD name. AFD retained the “rewards” program and the phone number (907-452-4477), but under the AFD branding. The wood has the AFD logo with dark blue lettering (both sides); however, it has the AFD main phone number on it (907-374-0505).



An explanation of “what made the life of the fuel truck driver’s life easier” is noted

on the card to which the wood token is attached and which is presented to the customer by the driver. A Win-Win for both the customer and the driver!

Alaska Fuel Distributors Inc. in Fairbanks, AK - (907) 452-4477
www.buzzfeed.com/business/Fairbanks-Fuel-907-452-4477 ✓
 Alaska Fuel Distributors Inc. (trade name Fairbanks Fuel) is in the Fuel Oil Dealers business.
 View competitors, revenue, employees, website and phone number.
 Fairbanks Fuel Distributors Inc - Company Profile and News ...
www.bloomberg.com/profile/company/00547900:US ✓
 Company profile page for Fairbanks Fuel Distributors Inc. including stock price, company news, press releases, executives, board members, and contact information ... 1-907-452-4477.
 WEBSITE: www.afd-fuel.com



My Thanks are extended to **Kip Harmon**, Sales & Marketing Manager, Alaska Fuel Distributors, for the above information!



Alaska Fuel Distributors

Use this Wooden Nickel for -\$0.05 off posted price on your next delivery.



Thank you for being such a great customer and:

- ☐ Clearing the path
- ☐ Cleaning up after animals
- ☐ Helping out
- ☐ Other: _____

Surprises from the Forest

submitted by **Judy Blackman**, CAWMC LM, FONA, KStE

Carsley's Whetstone (CWC) is a combination of two Montreal companies operating since 1928, and Thomson & Whetstone founded in the 1980's. In 1928 **Alexander Carsley** opened a store which included a coin section, and eventually the business grew into the largest coin shop in Montreal with an impeccable reputation. The business moved to larger quarters a few times, and it changed ownership in the 1980's and again in 1994. In the 1980's **Morley Thompson** and **William Whetstone** ran a successful business for over two decades, which included coins. The business changed hands in 1999, and in the same year, William Whetstone acquired Carsley's and merged the two businesses. In 2005 the business was purchased by **Michael Joffre**. Before joining CWC, Joffre (a lifelong collector and dealer) was a successful investment advisor with Merrill Lynch, and National Bank of Canada. He was head buyer for CWC before he bought it. Michael is a member of RCNA, ANA, LCC, MNS, ONA, and many more numismatic organizations, and a pricing advisor and contributor to several Charlton catalogues. Michael is published in numerous numismatic sources, and has appeared on TV (Global News). **Barry Uman** and **Alex Bergeron** are part of the CWC team. Many CAWMC members know these folks well! In 2018 in celebration of its **90th Anniversary**, the company issued both a metal token and a wooden token.



When most of us hear the words 10K Fun Run, we immediately think of marathoners running for a charitable cause. Well

this wood surprised me, as upon investigation, I found out this is a "virtual" event organized in Nevada (the gamblers' state). Evidently "Pre Mission Briefing – Facebook / Instagram Live" commenced at 7 p.m. PST on Sept. 19, 2019. The "Mission Start" was 12:01 a.m. Sept. 20, and the "Mission End" was 11:59 p.m. Sept. 22. Promotions for the event said "Friday, September 20th will be the day the human race stands up and says WE WANT TO KNOW." There were four ways to complete the event and qualify for the commemorative AREA 51 Virtual Run Medal of Honor and Certificate of Authenticity: 1km Naruto Run; 3km Heavy Bag Carry; 5km "Diversion" Run; and 10km "Exodus" run. All AREA 51



Virtual Run participants had to complete at least one of these four in the Mission window; AND, they had to post a selfie photo or video taken during the run on Facebook or Instagram and tag it with #xwarriorchallenge, and also post the route, and send an email with run details. They also have to be on FACEBOOK LIVE during the portion of the run and post comments. There was a fee to enter this event (it looks like it was \$30 USD) and package mailouts included finishers packages out within 7 days of completion. There were 500 of this wooden token produced, and it's not clear how they were distributed, i.e. to promote the upcoming event, to participants at registration, or in finisher packages. There is no indication this event was tied to any charitable cause.



This wooden BITCOIN wallet originates from Ottawa; however, the website and the "available at" and "order here" links all have broken URLs, so I cannot advise readers how to acquire one. **Charley Lazaro**



from **Ottawa** came up with the idea, in that there are various Bitcoin wallets, but this is the first wooden one. Lazaro said, "I came up with the idea of a wood wallet while playing with my laser engraver machine. I founded the startup "The Woody Co." here in Ottawa, so I am already involved in crafting wood products and using laser etching machines and technology. The Woody Co. has an active website (<https://www.thewoodyco.shop/shop>) but the products available for purchase do not include the Bitcoin wallet. Lazaro does accept orders for custom products, which likely includes personalized Bitcoin wallets although it's not specifically stated. An article says Lazaro builds custom wallets with the private key engraved as a QR code (aka cold storage wallets). "this method will store your private keys offline so that they can't be stolen by someone else on the Internet." [B T C B O O T H . COM – Bitcoin Booth C r y p t o c u r r e n c y D B . COM – crypto currency database]



The obverse (black ink) of this eye-catching Abe Lincoln Statehouse wood reads “THE CITY OF 1819 VANDALIA 2019”. The reverse (purple ink) says “422 W Gallatin Iya’s and Friends Vandalia, IL 618-431-2210”. Vandalia was the state capitol for Illinois from 1820-1839. The Vandalia Statehouse was



where Lincoln worked in his first years as an Illinois legislator. This wood was given away at a Grizzlies baseball game in Sauget, Illinois, along with historical brochures about the City of Vandalia. The token commemorates the Bicentennial / 200th Anniversary of the City of Vandalia. Iya’s and Friends Antiques / Crafts Flea Market and Unique Items may be a sponsor of the baseball team or the historic society or simply issued the wood as a promotion; however, the wood may have also been issued by the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce given the brochure that was issued with it.



In 2017 for Canada’s Sesquicentennial / 150th Anniversary since Confederation, the Saskatoon Coin Club issued both a plastic token and a wooden token (designers Harold Brown and Jim MacKenzie). This is similar to 2010 when the Club issued both a plastic token and a wooden token (black / gold—reverse has six maple leaves and St. Edwards crown) in celebration of the Club’s 50th Golden Anniversary. The Club ordered both two-sided tokens and uniface in both 2010 and 2017.

This June 19, 2019 commemorative wooden coin was created for the Pikes Peak Range Riders 2019 Western Street Breakfast in Colorado Springs. This annual event launches the rodeo season and each year a wood is issued. The Riders are in a grand procession as they parade through town just before the Breakfast. The 2020 woods were already been ordered and were expected to arrive in January 2020. It is not known if the event proceeded or if the 2020 woods were issued. The tokens are sold in four locations leading up to the event, and also sold at the Breakfast. There is a Token Ceremony which is the official city and county event held on the south side of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum in early June. The Token Sponsor is EmergiCare Medical Clinics (Colorado’s First Name in Urgent Care). It’s nice to see when an event is partnered with an important community resource, and a wooden token documents the event.



“The Original Pocket Change Machine (Patented 1904 North Columbia Trading Company)” wooden storage bank (made in Canada) has sold on Worthpoint, iCollectors, eBay, and Esty for as little as \$15 CAD (before premium, taxes, and shipping) and for nearly a hundred dollars for the high side. This bank has a round slot on top encircled with the words “DEPOSIT POCKET CHANGE HERE”. The bank has a glass front. The North Columbia Trading Company Ltd. is a giftware manufacturer and wholesaler located in Enderby, British Columbia. The October 17, 2018 Business Examiner noted, “Lee Starrett believes Enderby could use a premier waterfront hotel, and the city agrees. Starrett’s company, North Columbia Trading Co., is looking to sell prime waterfront property located along the Shuswap River. The lots currently contain three fully serviced buildings, which could be rented out by a developer prior to construction.” Lee A. Starrett who has looked after Sales and Marketing for the North Columbia Trading Co. Ltd. since January 1975 (nearly 45 years) notes, “In addition to Property Management, we manufacture and sell products for our Wooden Giftware business in with the same name.” I could not find a Canadian patent from 1904 for this bank or if this is a replica, an original bank.



The Foreign Corner

Hi, I'm Vic Agha and new to the CAWMC. I actually don't specifically collect Canadian woods, but woods of all countries as I see appropriate. I thought I'd do a foreign section on some of these.

Now one thing that interests me is how many different types of wood have been used over the centuries, and I thought I'd slowly go over those first. As of now, I know of twenty types that have been used: apple, balsa, pink beech, birch/naver, cedar, cherry, cork, curupay, maple, mesquite, myrtlewood, oak barrel, palm, pear, pine, plywood, redwood, sitka spruce, white spruce, and walnut.

However, I'm quite sure there are others out there, and I can think of a few mystery pieces too.

If anybody has any pieces where they specifically know what the wood is, or can help me get the ones I don't have, feel free to contact me at moneybymaterial@gmail.com. In the meantime, here's a more detailed description of the above:

Apple. An NTCA article mentioned that a hotel in Iowa, after cutting down a few apple trees, gave out slices of them as trade tokens. With a regular pen, they wrote on the slices that they were good for \$5 in trade. I do not have this, or a picture of it.

Balsa. Balsa wood is probably the best strength-to-weight wood that's easily available and is commonly used for crafts. We used it in school projects for this reason. Wood-wise, I've seen a number of flats issued by people as holiday greetings cards and the like. Other than that, the only use of balsa wood I know of is a set of tokens I have, ranging from 2c to 10c, that were redeemable at a coin show in Cincinnati in 1967. Does anybody know of others?



The Foreign Corner...con”d

Beech. The Democratic Republic of the Congo followed their 2005 issue of a maple wood 5 francs (see further down) with a 10 franc coin issued in pink beech in 2006. It includes a bimetallic Russian coin embedded into it. At a mintage of 50, these are quite rare. One person out there does have one for sale, but at an asking price of US \$10,000, I think I'll pass.



Birch (naver). Barring what France alluded to last time (I can guess which flats are made of birch but do not have confirmation yet), the only woods I know of here are that some centuries-old Swedish trade tokens were made with naver, or the bark of birch trees. I know nothing more about these pieces.

That's it for now – more to come in the next issue! **Vic**



In Case You Missed It

the 2020 supplement to Norm Belsten's woods catalogue is complete and available as a download for \$5.00 or on disk at \$7.00 including postage.

For a full catalogue (also available as download for \$80, or for the supplement, Norm can be contacted at nbelsten@sympatico.ca or N Belsten 86 Hamilton Dr. Newmarket ON. L3Y 3E8 or 905 868 9187.

Chips from the Woodpile By Dave Gillespie

The President's message in the November, 1987 from Norm Belsten said he had discovered that Midway Variety in Barrie, Ontario had issued three different wooden tokens. The first "good for coffee", the second "good for an ice cream cone" and the third "good for a breakfast special". Some of the breakfast special woods were donated to a non-profit organization in the area to be used as draw prizes. Who would have thought that one of the woods in your collection could feed you and provide you with a "Breakfast Special".

Then on the other hand in the following month's newsletter, the editor shared a Glen Littrell story about Gary and his father wanting to take a cruise on Black Monday, October 19th, 1987. To their surprise they came across a new 150 passenger cruiser and across the bow was the title "Jean Lafitte" As it happened Gary had a Jean Lafitte Whooping Crane wood with him that he gave to the captain as a souvenir. In return for the wooden nickel he was rewarded with two complimentary \$20.00 tickets on the boat's maiden voyage into Whooping Crane country. Who knows what your woods are really worth?

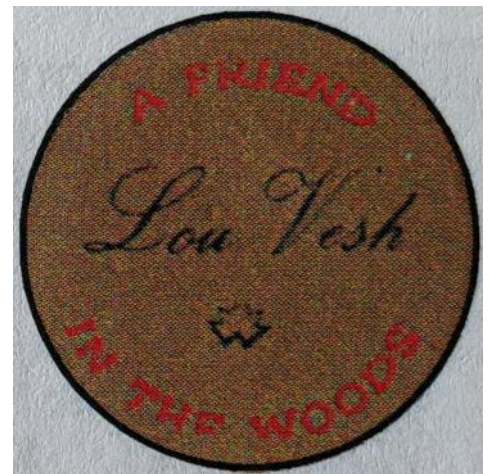
Membership in 1988 was at 137, Al Munro organized another successful mail auction and President, Norm Belsten reported that over the summer he had put together a list of over 425 newly issued woods.

Around the same time and it was getting close to Christmas, Mr. J. Edworthy of Edmonton, Alberta was advertising "for sale" sets of 24 Fort Edmonton woods at the price of \$15.00, postage paid. AND the Prince George Chamber of Commerce announced an increase in the price of next year's 1989 Spruce Dollars to \$2.00 each plus postage.

Ted Wolverton attended the 1989 A.N.A. in Pittsburgh and provided woodies from all over Canada and the U.S. with a wonderful display of Clarence Kramer's wooden money collection. What a treat for anyone who was there to view the collection with all of it's history and especially those Canadian Spruce Dollars not to mention the very rare wooden money made in the 1930's from Tenino, Washington.

As the year was nearing it's end, Lou Vesh under the heading "My Wooden Nickel's Worth" shared a little of his life after retirement and his connection to the hobby as an "old woodie". In 1986 Lou moved out of the Big Smoke (Toronto as it was sometimes referred to) and into the Woods. Lou signed off his letter with "Your friend in the Woods" which had a dual meaning. Not only did he collect woods but he lived in the woods. To add to that his property up north was waterfront and abutted on to Pine Lake, no less and he had Nickels for neighbors to make things even more interesting or should I say "woody". Clarence and Kay Nickel, retired fruit farmers from the Niagara district built a new home and settled in just down the road. They named their new home "Nickels' Quarters".

Looking back, Lou had to be happy with his choice as he settled into the Woods, making his own very highly prized and much sought after woods to go along with his collecting.





Appointed Officers

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Dave Gillespie

Auction Coordinator and Membership Dues:
Al Munro

Annual Membership Dues in Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors are:

- **Canadian Residents:**
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- **Youth** (16 years old and under) \$5 Cdn. Funds
- **U.S. A. Residents:**
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- **International Members Rate (outside Cda. - U.S.A.):** \$20 Cdn. Funds

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Mr. Al Munro, P.O. Box
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And now for another Tom Hudson quiz question:

What former President of both the C.N.A. and A.N.A. issued 50 personal woods in 1959 ?

'Til next time Let the Chips lie where they fall.

Dave

Answer of the Question from October 2020

Q. Who issued a 'One Handshake' wood in 1967 and a 'Two Handshake' wood in 1968 ?

*A. J. Clark Mullock, Halifax, Nove Scotia -
wood # 2450-014 and 2450-015*

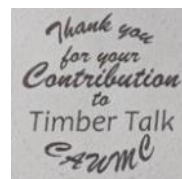
Timber Talk's "Thank You for your contribution" Reward Program

This multi-year program will be at the discretion of the editor of the Timber Talk, in concert with CAWMC Board of Directors

To qualify articles should be at least 250 words in length, sent in MS Word format, or handwritten, accompanied by images if possible. Publication of the articles will be at the discretion of the editor. The editor of TT reserves the right to edit and publish the article partially or in its entirety.

The woods, to be issued in extremely limited quantities (5-25), will be attributed in the following order:

1st article: Black 2nd article: Red 3rd article: Royal Blue 4th article: Green 5th article: Burgundy 6th article: Purple 7th article: Teal 8th article: Bronze



Woods recognizing special contribution to Timber Talk will also be awarded as follows:

Silver wood: Exceptional Service, ex: scheduled contributors, proof readers, FWOTM coordinator

Gold wood: More than 8 articles, or for articles promoting wooden money collecting and CAWMC in other numismatic publication (paper or digital). In the last case, it will be the responsibility of the author to claim the reward by e-mailing the editor.

Platinum (Multi colored) wood: Well beyond 8 articles.

The woods will be presented or mailed to the recipient at the Annual AGM if possible or delivered via mail.

Articles and images should be sent to the editor (france@waychison.com or address on front page)

I / We wish to JOIN or RENEW my/our membership in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC). Annual Dues are due before January 1st 2021:

Canadian Resident \$10.00 / Youth (16 years of age and under) \$5.00 Canadian Funds

U.S. Resident \$10.00 / Youth (16 years of age and under) \$5.00

U.S. Funds International Resident (outside Canada and United States) \$20.00 Canadian Funds

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Contact Telephone (day time):_() _____ Contact Telephone (night time): () _____
Cell Phone () _____ Be sure to include area code with the contact numbers above.
If you would prefer to receive the Timber Talk via Canada Post instead of e-mail, tick this box: ☐

Note: your e-mail address is given to our Editor to set you up with website access to Timber Talk archives and other site features. Our President uses it to send out the newsletter by e-mail. Your mailing address is used by our Secretary for membership records, and for mailing out your woods annually .We do not give out your contact information to anybody without your expressed consent beforehand.

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--- use form below for friend(s) to join too -----

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